

March 19, 2015

Testimony for the Education Committee

Connecticut General Assembly

Good Afternoon Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and the distinguished members of the Education Committee. I am writing to you in regard to HB 7020 An Act Concerning Early Childhood Educators and initiatives. I am asking you to support increased compensation to Early Childhood Educators and to make sure that this state recognizes all Early Childhood degrees from Regionally Accredited College, in state and out to determine who is qualified for the newly required ECTC credential.

I have been working in the field of Early Childhood Education in Connecticut as a teacher and Director for the past 19 years. I even still today teach every week in classrooms. Prior to that I was working in Albany, NY in a school as I obtained my MS in Early Childhood Education. My degree is from a very highly renowned school of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, in neighboring New York State. It is regionally accredited. I am an excellent teacher, and have worked at a state college in CT teaching teachers through their early childhood degree program. My first preschool classrooms from CT are graduating from college now and starting their careers. They are excellent examples of the product of good quality families and education from teachers birth through college.

In no other field or career is someone who has had their Masters Degree for 20 years told that because their degree is from a school out of state that they cannot be qualified to do that job in this state. I will not be granted an ECTC because of my age of graduation and the US state from which I graduated? I feel that is plain age discrimination if you look at someone's year of graduation and use that as your reason you can't hire them. No, indeed, the 20 year veterans in all other fields are praised, paid well and looked at to mentor the incoming newly graduating employees. Companies like Pratt and Whitney do not hire Engineers ONLY from CT schools, because the best and the brightest in any field come from all across our country. I don't think I would trust those airplanes as much if that was the case. Other career fields fight for and recruit in state and out of state employees of top caliber and pay them top dollar, because all degrees from regionally accredited colleges for their field of study are accepted, including but not limited to CT schools. It makes no sense that in CT, anyone believes that limiting the teachers that can get ECTC's and teach our

young children to NEWLY graduating students with very little classroom experience, from ONLY in-state schools is what will make our early education programs the HIGHEST QUALITY. The current legislation says to accept BA/BS degrees from regionally accredited colleges and by approval of Higher Ed. I am suggesting that the legislation be amended to end with requiring a “minimum of BA/BS degrees in ECE from regionally accredited colleges”. In all other fields that is the accepted standard for college degrees as graduates move from state to state.

Giving ECTC’s to only those from schools within the state and from only certain colleges is wrong on so many levels. It seems more like an attempt to drum up business for our State colleges, than to actually hire and attract qualified quality teachers for our young children in CT. I don’t want to be “grandfathered” because that has very negative connotations that in many ways one is not as qualified as others able to obtain the ECTC as they graduate now. This is just not the case. I would like an ECTC. I can assure you that my 3.88 average 20 years ago in a rigorous educational program is still valid in today’s world. I worked hard for my degrees, and I am proud of them.

Accept the qualified teachers who have put their time and effort into their 2 year, 4 year and graduate years to obtain those valuable degrees, and pay them what they need to live. Give them wages that can allow them to come off State assistance programs and sustain themselves. We wonder why people do not want to live in this state? This is just another reason why the state is pushing highly educated, hardworking families like mine out in droves.

Please change this legislation language so that the ECTC is granted to every 2 year, 4 year, Master and Post Graduate Early Childhood Degree from a regionally accredited college without the need for other approval.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Corrice

Parent and Teacher

Financial Director at Riverfront Children’s Center